

## Message Text

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16 S

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01 SS-15 SSO-00 AID-05

EUR-12 IO-10 EB-07 SCS-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

FDRE-00 A-01 OPR-02 /099 W  
----- 122734

P R 130700Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4800

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1931

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS, CB, TW

SUBJECT: REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: A. STATE 084084

B. TAIPEI 1702

C. STATE 077791

D. TAIPEI 1719

1. WE HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY TWO AMERICAN FIRMS WISHING TO EVACUATE US AND VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES FROM SAIGON. AMERICAN EXPRESS HAS STAFF IN SAIGON WHICH INCLUDES 3 US CITIZENS, 2 BRITS, AND ROUGHLY 80 VIETNAMESE INCLUDING IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS (REF A). RCA CONTACTED US ABOUT EVALUCATION OF ITS NBC PERSONNEL FROM SAIGON. IN ADDITION TO SMALL NUMBER OF AMERICANS, NBC GROUP WOULD INCLUDE AN ESTIMATED 200-300 VIETNAMESE AND A FEW CAMBODIANS. WE UNDERSTAND TIME MAGAZINE HAS CONTACTED ROC EMBASSY WASHINGTON WITH SIMILAR REQUEST.

2. WE REFERRED BOTH AMERICAN EXPRESS AND RCA TO MOFA, WHERE THEY WERE TOLD THAT GROC WOULD ALLOW THEM TO BRING  
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REFUGEES HERE TEMPORARILY, AND THAT GROC WOULD BE VERY

FLEXIBLE ON DOCUMENTATION AND ADVANCE NOTIFICATION. MOFA ATTEMPTED TO GET RCA TO SUBMIT ITS REQUEST THROUGH THE U.S. EMBASSY. IN ACCORDANCE REF C, WE DECLINED TO BECOME CHANNEL FOR RCA COMMUNICATIONS WITH MOFA.

3. THESE ARE ONLY INDICATIONS WE NOW HAVE AS TO NUMBERS OF REFUGEES WHICH MIGHT HAVE TO BE ACCOMMODATED ON TAIWAN. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME TO MAKE MEANINGFUL ESTIMATE OF HOW MUCH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE NEEDED.

4. DCM INFORMALLY DISCUSSED THIS GENERAL SUBJECT APRIL 10 WITH TSAI WEI-PING, VICE MIN FONAFF, WHO SAID THAT, WITH RESPECT TO ANY VIETNAMESE NATIONALS WHOSE EVACUATION USG MIGHT ASSIST AND SPONSOR, HE THOUGHT TAIWAN COULD BE USED AS TEMPORARY, TRANSIT-TYPE SAFEHAVEN SO LONG AS ARRANGEMENTS FOR ONWARD TRANSPORTATION AND RESETTLEMENT ASSURED. TSAI CONFIRMED WHAT AMERICAN EXPRESS AND RCA HEARD FROM MOFA OFFICIAL-- THAT "PROPER DOCUMENTATION" (I.E. GVN PASSPORTS AND APPROPRIATE VISAS) WOULD NOT BE INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLE. TSAI POINTED OUT THAT GVN HAD PLACED BAN ON TRAVEL, AND THAT GROC DID NOT WISH TO DO ANYTHING COUNTER TO GVN LAWS OR WISHES. ON OTHER HAND, FEELS OBLIGATION TO ASSIST THOSE WHOSE LIVES MIGHT BE IN DANGER SHOULD THEY FALL INTO HANDS OF COMMUNISTS.

5. TSAI ALSO SAID HE FORESAW NO PROBLEM SHOULD USG WISH TO SAFEHAVEN US OFFICIALS AND/OR DEPENDENTS ON TAIWAN.

6. TSAI EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT GROC'S FIRST OBLIGATION IS TO CHINESE PEOPLE IN SOUTH VIETNAM--NOT ONLY THOSE CARRYING ROC PASSPORTS, BUT ALSO THOSE WHO HAD OPTED FOR VIETNAMESE CITIZENSHIP WHO HAD MAINTAINED CLOSE TIES WITH THE ROC AS WELL AS TO ANY OTHER CHINESE WHO EXPRESS WISH TO COME TO TAIWAN. (FONMIN SHEN DISCUSSED THIS AT SOME LENGTH WITH AMBASSADOR UNGER ON APRIL 5--REF D.) WITH THIS IN MIND, ACCORDING TO TSAI, AMBASSADOR HSU IN SAIGON HAD REQUESTED THAT ONE OF THE FOUR LST'S NOW ASSISTING IN REFUGEE RELIEF WORK IN VIETNAM BE PLACED UNDER HIS (HSU'S) "COMMAND". THIS REQUEST WAS REFUSED ON GROUNDS THAT LST'S MUST NECESSARILY BE INCLUDED WITHIN CONFIDENTIAL

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SYSTEM ESTABLISHED FOR COORDINATION AND CONTROL OF REFUGEE MOVEMENT AND RELIEF. ONE OF AMBASSADOR HSU'S MAJOR CONCERNS IS THAT CHINESE LST'S WILL BE USED TO EVACUATE NON-CHINESE, WHILE CHINESE SEEKING EVACUATION ARE TURNED AWAY. TSAI EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THOSE WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF EVACUATION IN SAIGON WILL BEAR IN MIND THAT IF SITUATION DETERIORATES TO POINT THAT EMERGENCY EVACUATION OF CHINESE FROM SAIGON BECOMES NECESSARY THEY WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY

ACCESS TO ROC-PROVIDED LST'S (OR AIRCRAFT). DCM AGREED  
WITH TSAI THAT THIS APPEARED REASONABLE, AND SAID HE WAS  
CONFIDENT THAT THOSE IN CHARGE COORDINATING EMERGENCY  
EVACUATION PLANNING IN SAIGON WOULD HAVE THESE  
CHINESE CONCERNS VERY MUCH IN MIND.  
UNGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, BUSINESS FIRMS, EVACUATION PLANS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Page Count:** 3  
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**Reference:** 75 STATE 084084  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM  
**TAGS:** SREF, VS, CB, TW, AMERICAN EXPRESS, RCA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006